

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-14 PC-04 DRC-01

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R 071920Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5272

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1004

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: SANCTIONS TAKEN AGAINST DISSENTING FREJULI DEPUTIES

REF BA 0837

1. FREJULI BLOC IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS YESTERDAY TO CONSIDER ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST DEPUTIES WHO FAILED TO VOTE FOR AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE. DEBATE REPORTEDLY WAS ACRIMONIOUS. AT END OF MEETING FREJULI BLOC LEADER FERDINANDO PEDRINI ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING DECISIONS: A) RESIGNATIONS OF EIGHT PERONIST DEPUTIES WERE ACCEPTED. (THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPelled FROM PERONIST MOVEMENT.) B) SIX OF THE EIGHT MID DEPUTIES WHO FAILED TO VOTE WERE SUSPENDED FROM BLOC FOR PERIOD OF 30 DAYS. REMAINING TWO APPARENTLY HAD CONVINCING EXCUSES FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND SESSION DURING WHICH VOTE WAS TAKEN. C) MARCOS MERCHENSKY, ONE OF THE SIX SUSPENDED MID DEPUTIES, WAS ALSO REMOVED AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FREJULI BLOC. A REPLACEMENT WILL BE DESIGNATED SHORTLY. D) STEPS WERE TAKEN TO REMOVE ISIDRO ODENA, ALSO ONE OF THE SIX, AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER. (NOTE. THIS DOUBTLESS

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MEANS FREJULI BLOC WILL INTRODUCE MEASURE TO REMOVE HIM WHICH

MUST THEN BE VOTED ON BY ENTIRE CHAMBER.) E) HUGO LIMA OF POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY (AND BROTHER OF PARTY LEADER VICENTE SOLANO LIMA), WAS ALSO SUSPENDED FROM BLOC FOR 30 DAYS FOR REFUSING TO VOTE FOR AMENDMENTS.

2. COMMENT: REACTION OF SANCTIONED DEPUTIES WAS INTERESTING. ONLY LIMA WAS DEFIANT. HE DID NOT DENY THAT HE OPPOSED AMENDMENTS AND HE SCORNFULLY DISMISSED ACTION AGAINST HIM AS HAVING NO VALIDITY SINCE IT NOT A DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF HIS OWN PARTY. IN THIS POSITION, HOWEVER, HE IS ON WEAK GROUND, FOR HIS PARTY IS PART OF FREJULI BLOC AND RULES ON BLOC DISCIPLINE ARE QUITE CLEAR. SHOULD HE INSIST THAT HIS OWN PARTY CONFIRM SANCTIONS AGAINST HIM BEFORE HE RECOGNIZES THEIR VALIDITY, HE WILL PLACE HIS BROTHER, VICENTE SOLANO LIMA, IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION.

3. POSITION OF SIX MID DEPUTIES IS SOMEWHAT MORE PUSILLANIMOUS. RATHER THAN OPENLY CONFIRMING THEIR OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENTS, THEY INSIST THEY COULD NOT ATTEND VOTING SESSION BECAUSE OF ILLNESS (ALL SIX ON SAME DAY).

4. MEANWHILE, POPULAR CONSERVATIVE SENATOR ALBERTO FONROUGE TOLD EMBOFF ON FEB 5 THAT HIS RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF FREJULI BLOC IN SENATE (SEE REFTEL) WAS STRICTLY PERSONAL MATTER WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL MOTIVATION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT LEFT FREJULI BLOC AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN SENATE WITHIN THAT BLOC.

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